

Chairman's Report 2017/8

In comparison to the two preceding years, when major changes were made to the Hall, this has been a quiet year. The replacement of the external weatherboarding and barge boards was completed in the Spring of 2017, bringing to an end the second phase of the refurbishment project. We are now applying for further grants to fund the third phase to replace the old windows and to upgrade the heating system.

The last Caynham Shoot took place in 2016, so this year we sorely missed the regular financial contribution this has provided. Nevertheless, we had a successful round of fund-raising events. The most notable was the Ceilidh held last August in the Square Covert Barn, in collaboration with St Mary's Church PCC. The venue was donated by Carol and Richard Powell and we are very grateful for their support. Our regular events were also well attended: the January Lunch (moved from its usual December slot), also with St Mary's Church, and the Big Breakfast and Quiz night. Particular thanks go to Gill and John Bissell, Paula Spencer and Jill and Ray Bufton for their contributions.

The result of this fund-raising, together with income from Hall hire – where there has been a welcome increase in ad hoc bookings – was that we were able to meet a £350 shortfall in the refurbishment funding and still break even on the year.

The Committee has shrunk further this year. Juliet Jones stood down in September. She was a valuable Committee member for 8 years, regularly contributing to Village Hall events. Juliet's departure was followed in January by the resignation of Terry Anley, who deserves most of the credit for the success of the refurbishment project. I would like to express the Committee's and my personal thanks to Juliet and Terry for all their help. Fortunately, Terry is still involved informally, maintaining the website and making applications for grant funding.

It remains for me to thank my fellow Committee members - Barbara Ashford, Jean Faulkner and Caroline Prentice - for their continued help and support.

David Faulkner, Chairman Caynham Village Hall Committee